

Gardner authored land and water bills:

S. 36 – Craggs, Colorado Land Exchange Act

The Craggs bill facilitates an equal value land exchange between the Broadmoor Hotel and the United States Forest Service (USFS). This exchange has been a priority for USFS for quite some time. The completion of this land exchange will see enhanced recreational opportunities for the public on the Pike National Forest, which includes access to the Barr Trail, while easing the management burden on USFS by acquiring an inholding and no longer having to oversee a special use permit for the Emerald Valley Ranch.

S. 37 – Bolts Ditch Access and Use Act

In 1980, Congress designated the Holy Cross Wilderness Area, but the designating legislation failed to include Bolts Ditch as an existing water facility. The town of Miniturn can only fill Bolts Lake, outside of the Holy Cross Wilderness, by using the Bolts ditch and headgate. This legislation will allow Miniturn to acquire a special use permit to access the ditch and headgate in the wilderness area.

S. 33 – To update the map of, and modify the maximum acreage available for inclusion in, the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument

The park is currently capped in its size at 6,000 acres. However, a local conservation group has taken 280 acres of private land adjacent to the existing park in to trust and the park has received support from the local community to incorporate the parcel in to the park. This legislation revises the monument designation to incorporate the additional 280 acre parcel.

S. 38 – Endangered Fish Recovery Programs Extension Act

Originally created in 1988 over concern for four endangered fish, the Upper Colorado Endangered Fish Recovery Implementation Program has been extended multiple times over the last 30 years, most recently in 2013. The science-based, basin wide approach this program has taken have precluded any lawsuits being filed despite the diverse stakeholder group involved. This legislation will extend the authorization of the program through 2023.

S. 35 – Amache Study Act

During World War II, tens of thousands of Japanese Americans, including many American citizens, were removed from their homes and held in internment centers. One such internment center was located on the eastern plains of Colorado in town called Granada. Amache, as the internment center came to be known, was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 2005. This bill directs the National Park Service to study the Amache site for inclusion as a unit of the National Park System.

Other bills in package Gardner was an original cosponsor of:

S. 59 – Arapaho National Forest Boundary Adjustment Act of 2017

Adjusts the boundary of the Arapahoe National Forest to include a 10-lot subdivision known as the “Wedge”, which will protect the view shed of Rocky Mountain National Park and protect the headwaters of the Colorado River.

S. 58 – Fowler and Boskoff Peaks Designation Act

Names two unnamed peaks in the Uncompahgre National Forest after two legendary Colorado mountain climbers, Charlie Fowler and Christine Boskoff, who tragically lost their lives in an avalanche in China in 2006.

S. 57 – Pike National Historic Trail Study Act

Authorizes the National Park Service to conduct a feasibility study of legendary explorer Zebulon Pike’s route across the Midwest and Western U.S. beginning in 1806. This feasibility study would determine the route’s suitability for inclusion in the National Trails System.

S. 2290 (from the 115th Congress) – Wildfire Management Technology Advancement Act of 2017

This legislation authored by Senators Cantwell Gardner is a bill designed to bring firefighting agencies into the 21st century. It increases firefighter safety by requiring the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior to begin providing GPS locations for crews on wildfires and to begin using Unmanned Aircraft Systems to scout out and map wildfires in real-time.